

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018, 8:00AM  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL CENTER  
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Peter Elwell, Highway/Utilities Superintendent Hannah Tyler, Planning Director Rod Francis, Police Captain Mark Carignan, School Representative Alice Charkes, Chamber of Commerce Representative Leo Schiff, and Citizen Representative Louise Zak.

Selectboard Representative: None.

Other staff members present: None.

Others present: Prudence MacKinney, Shyla Foss, and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Elwell called the meeting to order at 8:04am.

Approve Minutes – December 21, 2017

**MOTION BY LOUISE ZAK, AND SECONDED BY LEO SCHIFF, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 21. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public Participation

None.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Police Captain Carignan reported that since the last meeting no pedestrian or bicycle collision had occurred. He reported that a total of 66 motor vehicles collisions had occurred, 56 of which had no injuries. There was no discussion by the Committee.

Monthly Report on Traffic Data Collection – Highway/Utilities Superintendent Tyler said that no traffic data had been collected since the last meeting due to priorities of maintaining the winter roads.

Street and Sidewalk Safety Policy Safety Action Requests –

*(a) School Bus Stop Relocations*

Mark Carignan, as a resident and citizen of Brattleboro (and not a representative from the Police Department), spoke about a student bus stop in West Brattleboro servicing the Stockwell Drive / Carriage Hill neighborhood. He said that a bus stop was formerly located at the intersection of Stockwell Drive and Carriage Hill Road but was later moved down the hill to the intersection at Western Avenue. He said that a resident then complained about the behavior of older students at the bus stop on Western Avenue and consequently the bus stop for middle school and high school students was moved to the 7-11 Store which was about 1/10th mile further away, leaving only the elementary school students at the Western Avenue bus stop. He said the move resulted in significant safety concerns for the students, as well as being an additional inconvenience for parents, and consequently fewer students now ride buses. He provided three photographs to illustrate the safety concerns. Photograph A showed a view of snow covering the sidewalk on Stockwell Drive, and Carignan said that without a sidewalk the students were forced to walk in the roadway which was of particular concern in the winter when it was dark. Photograph B showed another view of Stockwell Drive where the sidewalk was completely covered by snow and the road curved, creating visibility challenges. Photograph C showed a student walking over a snow covered sidewalk at the bus stop located at intersection with Western Avenue. He added that the traffic on Western Avenue often was speeding in that area and their line of vision was impacted because of a curve in the road. He said that he contacted the bus company to ask that the bus stop be moved to its former location, but was told that he would have to contact the School Board. He then provided a petition signed by 20 residents in the Carriage Hill neighborhood requesting that the bus stop located at the 7-11 Store and the bus stop on Western Avenue be moved to the previous location at the intersection of Stockwell Drive and Carriage Hill Road. He said that he was asking the Committee to endorse the request to move the bus stops. There was some discussion by Committee members about safety concerns for the

students, distances to the bus stops, condition of the sidewalk on Western Avenue, and the need for students to cross Greenleaf Street to get to the 7-11 Store.

**MOTION BY LOUISE ZAK, AND SECONDED BY ALICE CHARKES, THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BRATTLEBORO SCHOOL BOARD AND FIRST STUDENT BUS COMPANY THAT THEY SERVICE A BUS STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF STOCKWELL DRIVE/CARRIAGE HILL ROAD FOR ELEMENTARY, BAMS [Brattleboro Area Middle School], AND BUHS [Brattleboro Union High School] STUDENTS.**

There was further discussion about the number and locations of existing bus stops and what neighborhoods were served by all of the bus stops. Carignan clarified his intent and offered a friendly amendment to modify the motion to include a morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off. Zak and Charkes accepted the friendly amendment and agreed to amend their motion. Carignan said that his intent was to include a copy of the Committee's minutes with his letter to the School Board and the bus company.

**AMENDED MOTION BY LOUISE ZAK, AND SECONDED BY ALICE CHARKES, THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BRATTLEBORO SCHOOL BOARD AND FIRST STUDENT BUS COMPANY THAT THEY PROVIDE A BUS STOP WITH MORNING PICK-UP AND AFTERNOON DROP-OFF AT THE INTERSECTION OF STOCKWELL DRIVE/CARRIAGE HILL ROAD FOR ELEMENTARY, BAMS [Brattleboro Area Middle School], AND BUHS [Brattleboro Union High School] STUDENTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VTrans Response to Requested Safety Improvements on Putney Road - Elwell reported that VTrans was very responsive to the Committee's request for safety improvements as set forth in his December 11 letter to VTrans. He said that he recently met with representatives from VTrans who agreed to make four improvements starting in the spring or early summer, with other more difficult improvements to be considered at a later date. He spoke about the four improvements to be made on the hill between the West River and Town Crier Drive: (1) narrowing of lanes as requested but not shifting the roadway alignment because of concerns of forcing pedestrians over the drainage swale, (2) line striping the western edge of the road, (3) installing seasonal delineators providing a visual separation between motor vehicle traffic and pedestrians (instead of installing a guardrail), and (4) stabilizing the goat path. He said that VTrans may consider installing a crosswalk at or near Town Crier Drive but first would need to complete the 4 projects then conduct a speed study in that area. He said that VTrans would also investigate creating a safer pedestrian crossing at the Hannaford intersection but the intersection was complicated and would require a change in infrastructure and performing engineering work, so any change would take a longer time to complete. There was discussion by the Committee about the proposed improvements and the larger Putney Road Improvement Project. Staff was asked to continue to communicate with the State in order to keep the improvements on track within this calendar year.

Review of Winter Bike-Ped-Car Safety Video – Elwell provided a presentation of a preliminary version of a video produced by Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) to promote winter road safety. There was discussion about the video and possibly making some improvements. Elwell said that he would contact BCTV about the changes and said that the final version would be broadcast by BCTV at various times of the day and would be sent out publicly and added to social media sites.

#### Other Business

Elwell provided an update on the Committee's request for the Town to purchase a second sidewalk plow. He said that the Selectboard gave the request consideration but did not add it to the proposed FY19 budget. He said that because of the significant public interest in the snowplow, the Board agreed to add the request to the Warnings for Representative Town Meeting to decide whether to add it onto the tax levy. He encouraged supporters of the sidewalk plow to attend Representative Town Meeting on March 24.

Zak noted that the sidewalk in front of the Mason Center on Main Street was not properly shoveled after snow storms and not in compliance with the sidewalk shoveling ordinance. Elwell said that the business had been contacted on several occasions. There was discussion about issuing a ticket to the business or otherwise enforcing compliance. Francis suggested shortening the length of time allowed in the ordinance to clear sidewalks as was the requirement of other communities.

Charkes announced that BCAT (Brattleboro Coalition for Active Transport) was looking at updating bicycle ordinances and expected to present new bicycle ordinances in the future.

Elwell noted that certain scheduling conflicts may interfere with the February meeting date, and he suggested that the meeting may be cancelled or moved to another date if a February meeting became necessary.

Zak inquired as to the repair or replacement of the electronic speed sign on Green Street. Tyler said she had not yet received a quote for the equipment but expected the cost to be between \$8,000 and \$12,000. There was discussion about possibly splitting the cost with the Schools and it was requested that this matter be added to the March agenda.

There was no further business.

**MOTION BY LEO SCHIFF TO ADJOURN AT 8:55AM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**